

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

 Saturday, April 28. 1711.

THE Death of the Emperor is now the Surprize of *Europe*, and all our Eyes are upon the Consequences — The Confederates, I observe, come heartily into the Interest of the House of *Austria*, and resolve to promote, as far as in them lies, the Election of the present King *Charles III.* of *Spain*, to be Emperor — And there is no Question, but it is the true Interest of the present Powers Embark'd in the Grand Alliance, to do so; not only on Account of the many and great Obligations the Confederates have already heap'd upon that Prince, which it is hop'd may bind him to a large and grateful Return, not only on Account of the Great and Powerful Interest of the House of *Austria*, whose Possessions, are in themselves, the great Support and Defence of the Empire itself; but on Account of the unavoidable Difficulties, which the Election of any other Prince perhaps in *Europe*, at least, any that it is reasonable to think of, would bring with it at such a Juncture as this.

But the great remaining difficulty before us, seems to remain, which I make no Question at all, will be, as it already has been, started against the present Scheme, and that is, who shall be King of *Spain*?

In

In Examining this, I shall rather state the Difficulties which lie before us, and which some People begin already to Improve, than solve them upon my own Authority, as the most unexceptionable Method, and which I think, may be of Service to every Body.

The Foundation is the Circumstance of King *Charles III.*

1. It is resolv'd, the States General have fix'd it, her *Brisannick* Majesty, our Queen, is come in to it; the House of *Austria* pushes at it; that if possible, he be Made, Chosen, Elect-ed, or what you please to call it, Emperor of *Germany*.
2. He is already declar'd, own'd by all the Confederates, and receiv'd by great part of the People, as King of *Spain*, by the Title of *Charles III.*

The first Title you may give; but the last you cannot take away; Emperor he is by Election, if you Choose him, but King of *Spain* he is NOW by Descent and Succession—I say NOW, because I must confess, I think, his Title before would not hold upon any Foundation, but that of Political Interest; indeed the Title of King *Philip*, or the Title of King *Charles*, seem'd to me to be no Title at all, in the Sense of all those Principles, by which, I think, Kings ought to Claim—Nay, if I was ask'd which had the better Right, I durst not say King *Charles*—Both of them came in by Gift, neither by Succession, and yet the Families of either, Claim'd a Lineal Succession—If the House of *Bourbon* was to Inherit, King *Philip* had no Right, for his Father and Elder Brother were both alive, and both before him—If the House of *Austria* were to Inherit, then King *Charles* had no Right, for his Elder Brother was alive, and before him—So that Hereditary Claim neither had.

King *Philip* Claims by GIFT, and this Gift from *Charles II.* whose Right was unquestion'd—King *Charles* Claims by GIFT, and this Gift from the Emperor,

whose Right of Descent was also unquestion'd—But then King *Philip's* Gift was before King *Charles's*; If a Gift be a good Title, *Philip's* is best, because first given; if a Gift be no good Title, neither *Philip* or *Charles* had any Title at all.

It is out of all Doubt however, that King *Charles* is now Heir to the Crown of *Spain*; and that by the Death of his Brother, the *Spanish* Monarchy descends to him by immediate Inheritance, so that Dispute must now be out of Doors—And tho', had I been Subject of *Spain* before now, I could not have Sworn Allegiance to him, now I should no more Dispute it.

But shall we then Examine what must be done next; if he Enjoys the Crown of *Spain*, and is made Emperor at the same Time, Then that Exorbitant Power, which was so Terrible in the House of *Austria* in the Time of *Charles V.* and which deriv'd from the very same Conjunction, and cost *Europe* so much Blood and Treasure to pull down, is at once Erected again, and the Emperor becomes so Great, that he is an overMatch for the rest of the World.

Perhaps we are not the first Nation in the World, that shall feel the Effects of the too great growth of the *Austrian* Power; and therefore it may said, we need not be the first that shall be Anxious about it—But come we then to consider the several Princes in *Europe*, to whom this Conjunction will be uneasy and Terrible, and who, if upon that Account they should Dispute it with you at this Time, and abandon the Alliance, strike in with *France*, or set up for a Neutrality, would immediately Influence us here, and all Parts of the present Confederacy.

I shall not be backward to explain my self; I do not Enquire so much of the Princes of the Empire, the Protestant Interest, the Electors, the *Swede*, and those Powers on that Side, who in Times past, struggled hard with the *Austrian* Greatness—As I do in the present Juncture of the Duke of *Savoy* and the Princes of *Italy*; and to those People who are for giving this to one, and that to another, without consulting Right, either of one kind or another:

ther : They are, indeed, for making the *English* and *Dutch* Kings of *Spain*, rather than this or that ; and that whatever Roy or Vice-Roy, they please to place there, must have it.

To the Men of these King-making Principles, I have only this to say ; when they are sharing out the World by the Rule of Convenience rather than Right, I entreat they would not forget the Duke of *Savoy*, a Faithful, Steady Friend to the Confederacy ; and if not for the Service he has done, let it be for Politick Reasons, or what they will, let them parcel him out a good Equivalent, not that he may be ease only, but that he may have some Power, to hold the Scales between *Spain* and *Germany*, that when they meet, they may not Swallow up *Italy*, or smother it, and overlay it between them.

No, no, say the Masters of these Politicks, but we will make him King of *Spain* — My Question follows, *By what Right ?* For if all the Claims and Pretences to Right are despis'd and Contemn'd, then, Gentlemen, Complain no more of *Philip* of *Anjou* and the House of *Bourbon* ; but above all, we beseech you cease your Clamours at the most Glorious Conclusion for the Peace of *Europe*, that ever was offer'd at in *Europe*, I mean the Treaty of Partition — How much better to *Europe* was that Treaty, than a dangerous Conjunction of innumerable Dominions in one Head, which whenever a Warlike Prince comes to Inherit, may make *Europe* repent the Complimenting a Man with that Power, which they shall all be in Danger to sink under.

I remember in that Famous Treaty, which I had the Honour to see, and something more in its Embrio — This Fundamental Maxim is laid down, as what all the Princes of *Europe* would acknowledge, viz. That it was Essential to the Safety and Peace of *Europe*, that the Kingdoms of *Spain* should never Devolve on one Hand, to any Prince that was Emperor of *Germany*, or on the other Hand, to any Prince that was King of *France*, so as that they might be

possess'd at the same Time, by one and the same Person.

But how is this wise Fundamental Overthrown now, and laid a-sleep, and all that Division despis'd ; which had it now taken place, had so separated the *Spanish* Dominions from the *German*, that even that Great Body when so join'd, if ever that Dangerous Conjunction must happen, had been also so sever'd in Situation, and such Powers plac'd between, that one part had in a manner been render'd Useless to another.

I see no Room for this now upon the Foot of Legal Right, which then had been clear ; because all the Parties concern'd in the Settlement were agreeing, and no Man had any Wrong.

But now if you take *Spain* from the New Emperor, you wrong him ; if you give it him, and yet make him Emperor, you endanger *Europe* — What must be done ? If then you decline all manner of Partition, you resolve never to make Peace, not knowing for certain, that you can always make War.

I allow, that if the Duke of *Savoy* and the Princes of *Italy* take Umbrage at this Greatness of the House of *Austria*, as I must own, I cannot think but they will ; if that Discontent gives a handle to *France*, and the King of *France* should Engage them in that Treaty of Neutrality, which he but narrowly miss'd effecting this Winter, and which had he foreseen what has happened, he would certainly have done — We may have a long War cut out on that Side again, which may bid fair for unravelling all the Successes of the Duke of *Savoy*, and bring the *French* to be once more Masters of *Lombardy*.

I could enlarge upon this Head, but I know it is more fully handled, in a View of the Interests of the several Princes of *Europe*, on the Affair of this great Change — Which Book I am told will be Publish'd at the same Place with this Paper, in a few Days, and to which I refer the Reader for farther Satisfaction.

A D V E R.

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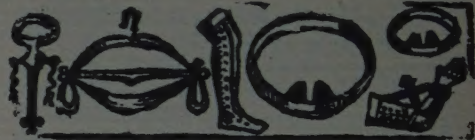
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Printed for and sold by *John Baker* at the *Black-Boy* in *Passer-Noster-Row*. 1711.